

What is Claimed is:

1 1. A system for stripping at least one optical fiber having an outer coating, the system
2 including:

- 3 a) an air source;
- 4 b) air burst means, in operative communication with said air source, for generating
5 one or more air streams from said air source during a predetermined time interval;
- 6 c) an isolated air transport path for receiving an air stream from said air source, said
7 air transport path comprising a heat chamber having an inlet port coupled to said
8 air source and an outlet port;
- 9 d) a heater including a heater core having a heat generating element, said heater core
10 configured to transfer heat from said heat generating element to said air stream
11 within said air transport path, wherein said air stream is substantially heated to a
12 predetermined temperature sufficient to remove the outer coating from said at
13 least one optical fiber;
- 14 e) at least one output nozzle configured to couple to said outlet port; and
- 15 f) a translator configured to selectively translate at least one of said at least one
16 output nozzle or said at least one optical fiber, to direct said heated air stream
17 from said at least one output nozzle onto a portion of said at least one optical fiber
18 to be stripped; and
- 19 g) a controller configured to selectively cause the output nozzle to output multiple
20 heated bursts to remove multiple coatings from the fiber.

1 2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined temperature is from about
2 700 degrees C to about 1100 degrees C.

1 3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined time interval is a short burst
2 of less than about 1 second.

- 1 4. A method of stripping a multi-layer fiber, including:
 - 2 A. directing a first burst of heated fluid at an outer layer of a multi-layer fiber,
3 wherein the first burst removes the outer layer; and
 - 4 B. directing a second burst of heated fluid at an inner layer of a multi-layer fiber,
5 wherein the first burst removes the inner layer.

- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein heated fluid is heated to a temperature in the range of
2 about 700 degrees C to about 1100 degrees C.